



NEW CITY  
U R B A N  
F A R M

# 2020 Intercropping Trials

# History of New City Neighbors

Bakery and After School in 2009

Farm in 2012

Soups in 2015

Cafe in 2017

2019 Social Enterprise Numbers:

\$60,000 in Youth Employment

Grossed \$110,000 in 2019

















































Build a Pizza Oven.





T  
Take selfie.



















6,602  
2,289  
6,602  
2,289



## Why inter-crop?

- Higher yields by using all available space.
- Less weeds because all available space is always being used.
- May reduce insect pressure.
- Gives shading advantages to cool crops.
- It is beautiful.
- It is fun.

# Some Principles:

1. You must have really good soil! The soil should test at over 5% organic matter. I would argue this organic matter should come from plant based compost. At least 3 inches of plant based compost to begin, an inch each year after for three years. Amend with custom mix and fish as needed.
2. If your soil is right the only limitation is the sun. Try to use all available sunlight at all times.
3. Plants grow in circles not squares! Think like a printer not like Atari.
4. Keep heavy feeders (Brassicas especially) in the center of inter-cropped beds and light feeders like lettuce on the outside.
5. Place longer season crops in the center and short season crops on the outside.
6. Experiment and have fun. Discover what combos work for you.



# Some Winning Combos:

Pole Beans and  
trellised peas  
with spinach,  
cilantro, cut  
lettuce on the  
outside.









# Broccoli/Lettuce









# Cucumbers/Basil







# Sweet Potatoes/Onions; Winter Squash/Garlic

1. Difficult crops to manage weeds with. Onions/Garlic because they are weakly rooted. Sweet Potatoes and Winter Squash because they vine out.
2. Wanted to use landscape fabric with vining crops, but fabric is expensive and labor intensive.
3. Sweet Potatoes and Winter Squash take up a lot of space.
4. By intercropping these 4 crops we get a higher return on material and labor costs while maximizing space.

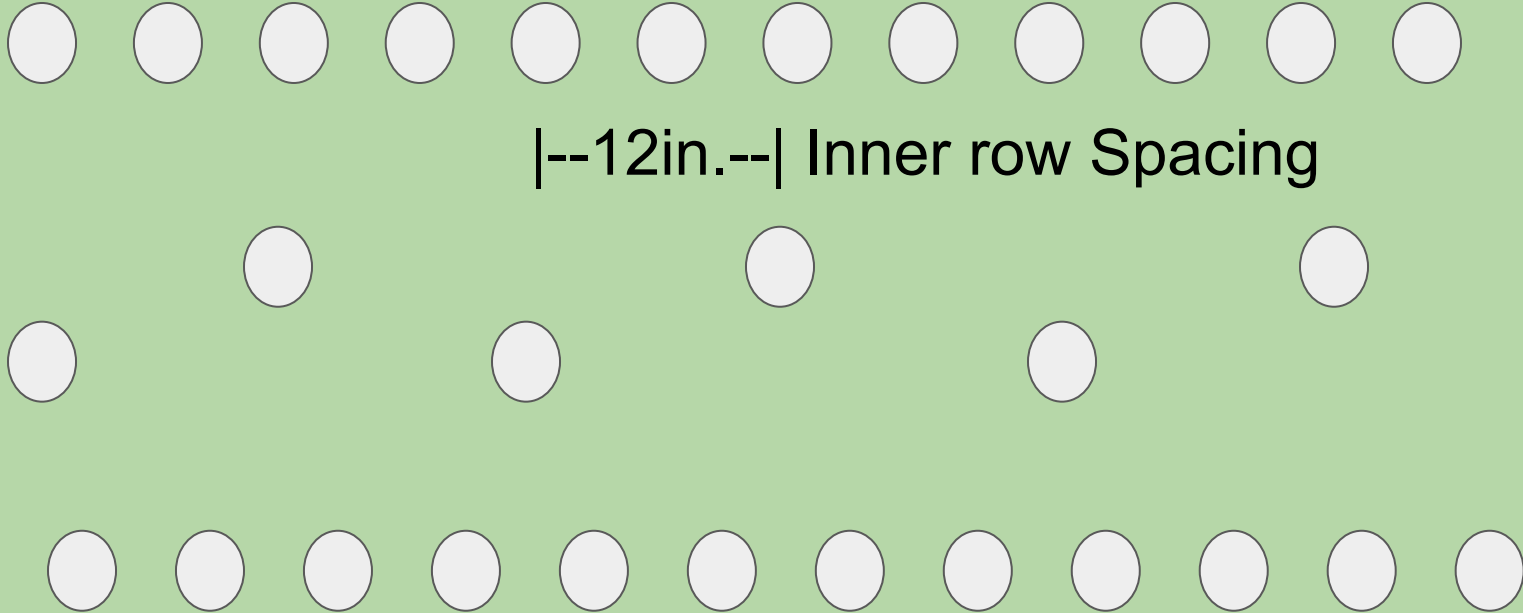


# Garlic/Winter Squash

1. Spacing: 32in. bed tops. 4½ ft. wide with pathway.
2. Winter Squash spaced at 12in. apart down the center of the bed, slightly offset.
3. Outer edges of the bed spaced at 6in. apart.
4. Burn holes in the fabric with a template using a plumbing torch. Can do multiple sheets at a time. We used 15ft. wide rolls to make sheets cover 3 beds together.
5. Use fabric staples to secure the fabric.
6. Drip irrigation set up under the fabric.

|-----|6in. Outer row Spacing

|--12in.--| Inner row Spacing



# Planting

1. Garlic planted in October/November.
2. Winter Squash transplanted **June 28**. Plant squash later to give time for the garlic.





July 2



July 9





July 16



July 22 pre-harvest





# July 22 - Harvest Garlic





# August 15 Squash Field





# Sept 26: Squash Harvest





# Planting

1. Transplant Onions **April 21**
2. Transplant Sweet Potato Slips **May 21**

June 20





June 20





June 28





July 1





July 9





July 16





# August 2 - Onion Harvest





# August 7 - Onion harvest/Sweet Potatoes field





Sept. 16





# Sept. 20 Harvest









## Conclusions:

1. Both methods can work.
2. Very important to hand weed consistently.
3. A lot of work to move 15ft. wide fabric. Might be better to go with 10ft. Wide fabric.
4. Important to transplant on cool rainy day, or have overhead irrigation.
5. A lot of front end work to set up drip and fabric. Less midseason work though.



# Contact Info:

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